



# ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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PRESS RELEASE | Month X, 2023

## **U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Concludes Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Violated the Antideficiency Act in Purchase and Use of Motor Vehicles for Former Architect, J. Brett Blanton**

**From the Architect of the Capitol Office of the Inspector General**

Following the conclusion of its [investigation](#) into then-Architect, J. Brett Blanton, for violating multiple government policies, the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) requested a GAO decision on whether, in consideration of all laws, statutes, orders and rules, the purchase of a passenger motor vehicle and vehicle accessories and their use was appropriate. The GAO concluded that while the AOC had authority to expend an appropriation for a vehicle, the AOC violated the Antideficiency Act for exceeding the price limitation. The AOC did not violate the purpose statute when it authorized the purchase of motor vehicle accessories such as lights and sirens. However, when the former Architect allowed family members use of the vehicle, such access was outside of his statutory responsibilities and did violate the purpose statute.<sup>1</sup>

The OIG's statutory mission is to promote efficiency and effectiveness, and economy to deter and prevent fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement in AOC programs and operations. While the former Architect had statutory authorization to expend taxpayer dollars for official business, evidence presented necessitated an appropriations law examination by the GAO. The GAO's decision further supports the OIG's investigative findings on waste, abuse of authority and misuse of public funds. The AOC violated both the Antideficiency Act and purpose statute when it authorized the use of government resources in excess of statutory limit and scope.

The OIG remains committed to providing independent and objective oversight to ensure the AOC fulfills its mission and responsibilities effectively, efficiently and ethically. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the GAO for its professionalism and coordination.

The complete decision is located at <https://www.gao.gov/products/b-333508>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gao.gov/products/b-333508>